

## Blacksmithing at Tillers International

Location, Tillers International, Scotts, Michigan

Class Time: Orientation meeting January 22, 5:00 PM location TBD based on class size.

This date can be flexible but must take place in January

Blacksmithing session: Wednesday, March 5, 12, 19, 26 9:00 - 1:00 PM

Minimum 8, Maximum 12 students

Tillers International is an International development and rural skills education center, About 1 hour from Berrien Springs near Kalamazoo. Tom has been an active volunteer and supporter for many years. Tillers operates one of the only dedicated traditional blacksmith education facilities in the MidWest. It really is special. Students will also be exposed to the other elements of Tillers including draft horses and oxen, woodworking, traditional farming skills, and timber framing. This is a serious class with genuine skill development. The smithing will be led by highly experienced blacksmith with assistance from Tom.

Parents are welcome to stay but not required. All will be reviewed at our orientation meeting.

Below is the class description from the Tillers course catalog.

Check out the website. <https://www.tillersinternational.org/classes>

This fast-paced introduction to smithing moves you through the fundamentals: basic hammer skills, Forming and drawing steel and heat treating,.. Safety, tools, techniques, materials, terminology, and shop set-up will all be explored. With an anvil for each student, there is plenty of hands-on learning and superb coaching in this popular class. The Herb Nehring Blacksmith Shop is a beautiful timber-framed structure and consists of six coal forges and twelve anvils, along with a myriad of other tools of the trade.

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